ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0028]   A random key generator circuit (10) generates a random number internal to an integrated circuit and stores the random number as a "root key" in a memory (18) on the integrated circuit. The output of the Root Key memory (18) is only accessible internal to the integrated circuit. The root key can be permanently stored in a fused memory or other memory type which is protected from erasure or reprogramming once the root key is stored.